*In The Year of The Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord Shirley Temple Wong, who is a Chinese girl moves to America from China. She is only 8 years old but she is very excited. When she gets there things don’t really go how she plans. First of all, she couldn’t speak English. She was pretty much a nobody at school. She started to learn some basic words and became more American. She also learned about baseball, the Dodgers, and their star player Jackie Robinson. But, as all that happens, she does not want to just drop her Chinese back round. Shirley’s identity changes a lot in the first year she was in America.

In the month of March Shirley went to school for the first time. She was very scared because she felt like the whole country of China was counting on her to give them a good reputation. She was like a little “ambassador.” This put a lot of pressure on her. And because of the way Chinese count age, she was put in 5th grade not 2ed, where she should be. She was kind of bullied and ignored. She had no friends. This made her kind of shy and quite, but she still wanted to make a difference. This was a big part of her identity. It helped her know that she would not be the center of everything and that everything would not always go her way.

In the month of June Shirley learned about Baseball, the Dodgers, and Jackie Robinson which turned out to be a big part of her identity. When she was playing baseball and scored a run people started calling her Jackie Robinson. She was thinking what’s a Jackie Robinson???? When people explained that he was the star player on the Dodgers she was like “What’s a Dodgers?!?!?!?” When they explained that she became a Dodgers fan. This became a huge part of her Identity.She had become more American but had not really mastered the language. She had learned some basic English words but nothing advanced. But since they were BASIC, she did not know the “big words” in the Pledge of Elegance. This caused her to mess it up. This is what she said: “ I pledge a lesson to the frog of the United States of America, and to the wee puppet for witches’ hands. One Asian, in the vestibule, with little tea and just rice for all.” Not even close, right? Baseball became a huge part of Shirley’s identity and she would be much different without it.

In the month of October The World Series happened. It was the Dodgers vs the Yankees. It came down to the wire. It was like “a war.” A Yankee hit, a blow to the stomach. A run, a mortal wound. A Dodger steal, a seizure of enemy territory. A score, a hero’s welcome. The Yankees won the first to games at home. Then in game three the Dodgers had a 9th inning come back. They almost had a 2ed won in game 4, but they lost. The series was 3-1. One more Yankee win and it would be over. 3 straight Dodger wins and they would be the champs. The Dodgers won the last game at home, then it went back to Yankee Stadium. The Dodgers took game 6, sending it to 7. But, the Yankees won and became the World Champs. I think this effected Shirley’s identity because it is the World Series. Trust me, the World Series changes you.

Many things happened in the book that made Shirley’s identity different than it was in the beginning that make her who she is. She went from a Chinese girl who can talk like once a day, to an American girl, who loved baseball loved playing outside, and doesn’t bow to everyone that she sees. Shirley’s identity has changed a lot in the book.